

HADHRAMAUT, ADEN PROTECTORATE

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strangers were assumed to be enemy scouts, the advance guard of a larger fighting force behind some distant dune. 721
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The "ambushed" caravan comprised sixteen Bedouins, only twelve of them armed. This fact, however, the theoretically opposing force was supposed not to know, since it is an unwritten law of the desert that every Bedouin travels with rifle and ammunition. Without hesitation the leader selected three armed men to act as scouts and an unarmed messenger. Hastily the four men washed down a few mouthfuls of food, since they did not know when they would be able to eat again, filled with water from the large reservoir skins some small ones suitable for short, flying trips, and then slipped swiftly off across the sand in a peculiar bowlegged glide. Under cover of a near-by dune the caravan men scrambled to its summit, at once opened fire, and drove the two intruders from view. They then dashed ahead to the dune on which their adversaries had stood and later advanced from hilltop to hilltop parallel to the caravan route and between it and "enemy" territory. In the meantime the camels had been hastily packed and started on the march along the now protected trail, which they followed without intermission until sundown. 411

The two "enemy" tribesmen were not seen again, and it was concluded that their actions had been misinterpreted. Freedom from molestation during the remainder of the day did not, however, cause the caravan leader to relinquish vigilance. The party was scheduled to pass at about 3.00 p. m. a water hole to one side of the trail and hidden from it by a dune. As a method of precaution an advance guard of four went ahead and, just as the caravan came abreast of this spot, converged on the well from four directions. Although the strategy displayed by the Bedouins and their chief was happily unnecessary, the "shadow" campaign showed how fearless and cautious these men of the desert can be.

FISHERS AND ROPEMAKERS

During certain of the winter months sardines abound along the Hadhramaut coast, traveling in large schools, which can be seen from the shore as black patches on the surface of the sea. Natives wade out with hand nets or cast from small canoes, making enormous hauls with considerable ease. The sardines are much appreciated by the Bedouins as an addition to their diet of dates, millet, and goat or sheep meat and are eaten either raw or cooked. The fish are taken from the nets, tossed up on the beach to dry, and then packed into large bundles for transport to the interior, where they are used for camel fodder or fertilizer. Fish oil is obtained from that part of the catch which is dumped into pits and allowed to decompose. Sting rays, sharks, porpoises, and lobsters are also taken from the sea; but as the use of lobster is unknown, it is cast back from the nets. 36
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Haswein, and Heila, entirely by the people themselves, and most of the seventeen landing-grounds in the country are now in frequent use by the Royal Air Force. It is interesting to note that many of these landing-grounds were built on the initiative of the local people, and all the new ones were voluntarily constructed by them at no expense to Government. The Sei'ar, the Badawin 'Awamir in the north and one or two others have asked for landing-grounds to be made so that they may be visited.

Hitherto communication with the Hadhramaut has been by irregular calls of ships at Mukalla and Shihr, but now there is a weekly commercial air service maintained by Arabian Airways from Aden to Mukalla and Seiyun. There was previously no postal service but now there is a post office at Mukalla and five postal agencies at the principal centres of Shihr, Tarim, Seiyun, Shibam and Du'an. There was no wireless communication, but now there is a commercial service with Mukalla and Government stations at Seiyun and Al 'Abr, and another in contemplation.

Remarkable as these improvements in communication are they do not yet fulfil all the needs of the country, for it is over 60,000 square miles in extent with a population of only about 300,000, of whom perhaps 50,000 dwell on the coastal area and 100,000 in the comparatively fertile wadi lands of the interior, while the rest are Badawin or scattered in more remote settlements where the soil allows the production of a modest living. This wide area, rather larger than England and Wales, has now been all seen, at any rate from the air, though of course not all has been visited on the ground and there are still wide and very desolate areas which have yet to be trodden.

The areas that offer most scope for development and on the development of which the prosperity of the whole country must depend are, of course, the coast and the Wadi Hadhramaut system itself. As in all tropical countries agriculture must be the basis of the modest natural wealth of the country, and the area that offers most scope is the Wadi Hadhramaut and its dependent wadis, principally that part of the wadi between Henin and Qa'udha on the west and As Som on the east, with the Wadis Du'an and Leisar, 'Amd, Bin 'Ali, Al 'Ain, Tarba, and 'Adim, running into it from the south. Generally speaking little cultivation is attempted in the wadis from the north.

The outlook of the coast, dominated by Mukalla and Shihr, is chiefly commercial and maritime. Those who do not depend on trade go down to the sea either in the dhows or as fishermen, though there is a certain amount of agriculture and the most important areas are Meifa and Ghail Ba Wazir. From the development point of view the Hadhramaut is fortunate in possessing a balanced population and one that has shown itself enterprising in the making of money abroad. It is the general belief of responsible local opinion that many of the 100,000 Hadhramis who live abroad will return, now that there is security and the prospect of finding a living in a country which, more than many peoples with the emigrating habit, they always regard as home. In a balanced population there are classes which fit into every phase of the cultural and economic structure of society, and the obvious basis of development will do nothing to upset the existing structure but simply give it extended scope. In areas inhabited only by tribesmen development must be difficult and slow, for there are many occupations

that of the Sultanates of the West, though I was interested to find that there was a small Jewish community, and this is the nearest that any Jews have got to the Hadhramaut. The Balhaf Sultan, an intelligent young man whom I have known for a long time, came to see me in Seiyun and asked us to help in extending peaceful arrangements to his country. Though most of the sections have signed the truce the situation is still far from settled, as Miss Stark, who arrived at 'Azzan from the Wadi 'Amd shortly after my first visit, will tell. 619 162 110

A short distance down the Wadi Meifa'a from 'Azzan are the ruins of Naqab al Hajar described by Wellstead a hundred years ago. This is Meepha Metropolis. I have only seen the ruins from the air, though Miss Stark has recently visited them. There are inscriptions also at Husn Gharab on the coast which Mr. Martens, one of this winter's visitors, has recently seen. He too was well received. 172

Bir 'Ali is the other Wāhidi Sultanate and, though the old Sultan has no claim to rule outside his wedge-shaped little walled town, he is unfortunately at present unwilling to compose his long-standing differences with the Balhaf and 'Azzan relatives, which makes settlement more difficult. I have lately had both Sultans in Mukalla and tried to get them to bury the hatchet. 622 578

I have had little opportunity in this last tour to do more for the Mahras than visit Qishn, their capital, occasionally, and Socotra I have not visited since 1935. It may perhaps be remembered that the Bin Zueidi section of the Mahras did not exactly welcome us when we arrived at the coast through the Wadi Maseila in 1934, and a couple of months ago for the first time the Mahras asked for intervention in their internal affairs, as the Zueidi tyranny in Seihut had become acute. We are now trying in the normal political way of advice and exhortation to induce them to cease their exactions on unarmed merchants and peaceful citizens in a town in which they have no lawful concern, and I paid my last visit to Qishn a day or two before I left Mukalla. 050

I had intended to visit Gheidha, the most eastern landing-ground in the Aden Protectorate, but we did not get so far and made a landing at Haswein just west of Cape Fartak. The inhabitants said it was the first time that Europeans had been there, though they called me by my name as soon as I stepped out of the machine. These coastal Mahras are a peaceful folk engaging mostly in fishing, and they have pleasant breeze-swept villages of a simple style of architecture, unlike the Hadhramaut but which reminded Mr. Figgis, who was with me, very much of the Arab dwellings in Northern Nigeria. I do not believe we could really have been the first Europeans to visit the place as there is quite an adequate account of it in the Red Sea Pilot, perhaps derived from a visit of Captain Haines in the *Palinurus* over a hundred years ago. Perhaps too there had been a much earlier European visitor, for authorities on classical geography usually identify Ras Fartak, Cape Syragrus, the Boar's Head, as the point from which Hippolus set forth in about A.D. 45 when he discovered the changes of the monsoons. I have long had a wish to put up on this majestic cape of Fartak a simple obelisk with the inscription, a quotation from the *Periplus*, "Hippolus discovered the changes of the 226 361 342 0000

ALONG THE COAST BACK TO OUR STARTING POINT 237

disturb us with questions. It was a disappointment to find ⁰⁰⁰ that there was, apparently, no food to be bought, but... we hoped to be back again in the palace of the hospitable Sultan of Makalla on the morrow!

June 21st was to be the last day of our travels and the ³⁶¹ fifteenth since leaving Terim. We were on the march at ¹⁶² twenty past four, going round the village towards the sea, ²²⁶ where a few fishermen were already busy with their nets. Burūm has barely a few hundreds of inhabitants and has known better days. There are only soldiers now in the white palace of the Sultan. A white mosque, as well as a few white stone houses, give it an attractive appearance when seen from a distance. A date plantation and *dhura* fields lie between the village and the mountain-wall, but there is no room for them to spread out in this narrow coastal plain shut in by rocks. Makalla controls Burūm by means of fiscal regulations. The fishing trade is the only source of income left to the people. We saw good-sized, dried shark's heads thrown into a heap, amongst them those of the hammer-head.

From the beach the path mounts to the rock-wall beside ⁰⁰⁰ the sea. On the rocky cape the remains of a fort and a few rusty cannon are to be seen. For a part of the way the path is hewn out of the precipice. Little Muḥammad, who has never seen the sea, lags behind constantly, quite lost in wonder over this new marvel. At one time our way ascends high up onto the rocks, then, at another, leads over a beach of glittering white sand. The farther we go the farther the mountains recede and, at last, one is walking along the flat sandy beach. The way is much travelled and there are plenty of *siqāyas*. Fūwa, our last stopping place before Makalla, comes in sight. The white town, encircled by an extensive district under cultivation, lies at the mouth of Wādī Fūwa. We pass through fresh green fields towards a group of shady trees, our chosen halting place, but it proves to be too warm and we are forced to seek human neighbourhood. Hospitality will be readily offered us in the high, white houses, but there we shall neither

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THE MIDDLE EAST

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Two products of southern Arabia are frankincense and myrrh, which are both obtained from the sap of trees that grow on the damper hill slopes above 3,000 feet. The sap is collected in late spring and early summer, before the onset of the rains, mainly by migrant Somalis and other Africans. At one time there was a considerable trade in these products with the north, and tradition speaks of an 'Incense Route' somewhere in south-west Arabia, along which caravans moved northwards to Medina and the Levant. Nowadays the output of frankincense and myrrh is very much smaller, most coming from the uplands of Dhofar.

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Towards the east, as relief declines and rainfall diminishes, cultivation becomes more and more precarious, and fishing is the main occupation. Large quantities of shark, tunny, and sardines are caught (Chapter X), most of which are dried as food both for humans and for camels. In addition, an oil is prepared from the fish for use in woodworking. Mukhala and Shihr are the chief fishing centres, and in these towns rows of fish drying in the sun for food, and rotting in heaps to produce oil, are prominent, and according to some visitors, unforgettable, features.

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With a barren hinterland, many activities in southern Arabia centre on the sea; and, in addition to fishing, trading by dhow is important. The Arabs of the south are the Greeks of the Indian Ocean, and cargoes are carried between East Africa, Arabia, the Persian Gulf, and India—even, at times, the East Indies. From their sea-trading, the natives of Aden and the Hadhramaut derive a livelihood that allows the import of foodstuffs into the country—as it is, local production of food is quite insufficient to maintain the existing population, and part must come from the outside. A cosmopolitan outlook, and wide commercial contacts, strongly contrasting with conditions in the Yemen, are strikingly indicated by the architectural styles in southern Arabia, which are very greatly influenced by East Indian models. Many storied houses, with elaborate woodwork and carving, are most characteristic. After a life of trading, perhaps with many years spent away from his country, the southern Arab often returns to Aden or the Hadhramaut with a small fortune that will keep him in comfort for the rest of his life.

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Aden is the principal town of the region, and its harbour, the only good one along the entire coast, from Bab el Mandeb to Muscat, is formed by a deep bay partially enclosed by two volcanic necks. The town, of 40,000 inhabitants, owes its development to British

Hadhramaut MM24

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ANNUAL REPORT: ADEN PROTECTORATE

134 are generally of good-quality alluvium. In high-altitude districts less fertile soils are found and they are generally light in texture, except in some limestone areas where they are heavy and intractable.

312 (b) *Water supplies* are generally good and sufficient for the needs of cultivators who tend to concentrate in the river-valley areas or in the highland areas where some rainfall can be expected. Water becomes scarce in the Eastern districts where the settled country emerges into the Empty Quarter. Domestic water supplies are obtained from springs, wells, dams, tanks and cisterns.

(c) *Irrigation and drainage systems* are highly developed. At high altitudes the run-off is led to terraces in order to boost the rainfall which is insufficient in itself for crop production. Flood irrigation systems are found in the river valleys and on the coastal plain. Irrigation from permanent streams and springs is highly developed. Artificial irrigation is from open wells. Animal power lifts are worked at depths of 10 to 60 feet and in the most favourable districts command up to 10 per cent. of the total arable area.

241 (d) *Mechanical cultivation* is confined to one small unit used by the Abyan Board in the Abyan district. Elsewhere the simple Arabian plough, combined levelling-board and scraper, harrow and a drill attachment for the plough comprise the implements used by the cultivator.

(e) *Application of fertilisers.* Organic fertilisers only are used. Farmyard manure is commonly used in all mid-altitude and highland districts. Farmyard manure, human excreta and town wastes are used in the Hadhramaut. Fish and guano are commonly used in the Eastern Protectorate coastal areas.

Land Tenure

- 423 (a) Customary tribal law and Shari'a law affect land tenure.
 (b) Individual ownership is the common and most-desired form of tenancy; share tenancy is the usual form of leasehold tenure.
 (c) His Majesty's Government owns no land in the Aden Protectorate. Some of the Arab states hold extensive tracts of land as state domain. All the land is held by indigenous inhabitants except for a very small percentage held by Yemeni settlers and a few Indians and Somalis.

Agricultural Credit

452 There are no banks in the Aden Protectorate. One small Farmers' Association giving credit assistance to its members was formed during the year. The Department of Agriculture, the local Governments, and in the Wadi Hadhramaut a Relief Organisation afforded assistance to farmers with interest-free loans.

FISHERIES

654 A visit in February by the Fisheries Adviser to the Secretary of State
 226 for the Colonies resulted in the arrival of a fisheries research party in

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SOCIAL SERVICES

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November. They began testing fish livers for vitamin-A content and also canning samples. Meanwhile several local merchants showed interest and applied for permission to set up canneries and the like. A board to consider such applications and fisheries development in general was set up.

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FORESTRY

No true forests exist. Bush products exploited are timber, charcoal, fibres, gum incense and dragon blood.

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Chapter 8: Social Services

EDUCATION

General

Education in common with other services is under the immediate general guidance of the British Agents. The Aden Government Department of Education inspects schools, gives such advice and assistance as is required, and co-ordinates so far as is possible educational development throughout the whole territory.

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Policy

The general education policy in the Protectorates has been to build up self-supporting state Departments of Education as the states become sufficiently advanced for this to be possible. The intention has been that these departments should organise and control a system of village schools, central primary schools and, in the case of the larger states, intermediate schools.

Education Departments

Two such Education Departments are already in existence. One under the Mukalla Government in the Eastern Protectorate, with a Sudanese Director of Education (who is also Education Adviser to the British Agent), and an inspectorate of five local Arab inspectors. The other is at Lahej, 25 miles inland from Aden in the Western Protectorate, where Emir Ali, brother of the Sultan, performs the duties of Director of Education.

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Higher Education

There is no higher education in the Protectorate, and there is no likelihood of full secondary education for some years to come. It is thus necessary to send abroad selected scholars who reach the required standard. There is at present one boy at Gordon College in the Sudan, and three there are at secondary schools.

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Hadhramaut M/M2

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ANNUAL REPORT: ADEN PROTECTORATE

241 the management of irrigation farming on some 5,000 acres. The value
242 of the Board's quarter-share of the net crop obtained, after paying harvesting and threshing expenses in kind, was estimated at over Rs. 1,25,000.

Farming in Abyan, largely influenced by the Board's operations, proved important to the economy of the Western Aden Protectorate. In the production of millet alone, it is estimated that a 30,000 bag crop, equal to 3,000 metric tons, was raised. A large portion of this was held as a reserve, or had been marketed to the easterly districts at the end of the year. General control on the export of this grain to Aden itself was maintained, and the flow of the crop to the districts to the east was encouraged.

The Wadi Hadhramaut Rehabilitation Scheme

654 This was wound up by Government at the end of the 1947-48 financial
426 year. Farmers with outstanding loans were given ten years in which to repay, the basis of repayment being at the rate of 2 per cent of the total loan from the spring crop, 3 per cent from the autumn crop, and 5 per cent from the winter crop grown. By the end of the year, it was
[452] apparent that this system of deferred repayment was not proving satisfactory. Moneylenders had again become active, while late planting and reduced acreage were noticeable in many districts. This undoubtedly resulted from lack of foresight on the part of many farmers, who had failed to reserve sufficient seed and fodder and preferred to resort to moneylenders for obtaining their needs on credit.

406 At the end of the year, proposals were on hand for the introduction of numbers of diesel-driven irrigation pumps for use in the Wadi Hadhramaut.

Co-operation

476 The Beihan Farmers' Association, formed in the previous year, progressed in a satisfactory manner, and much useful experience was gained by the officials of the association. A good *saif* season helped the members, but this was followed by an almost complete lack of water in the *kharif*. In spite of these difficulties, the association was able to help its members in their requirements of seed, stock, and cash needed for well equipment and for concentrates for feeding livestock. At the end of the year, the association had acquired some Rs. 12,000 from members' subscriptions and from interest charged on loans.

476 This association cannot be termed a co-operative society in the true
659 sense of the word. It is an association which has the full support of the local Government, and which at present makes use of Government offices and storehouses for its activities. In the present stage of development this is considered to be the most desirable form of association for Beihan.

Western Aden Protectorate

226 The Western Aden Protectorate fisheries are of minor importance
361 compared with those of the Eastern Protectorate. Shuqra, the seat of
439 the Fadhl Sultan, is, however, a fishing port with a considerable export trade in dried fish

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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trade in dried fish. Other fishing communities are small and the greater part of their population nomadic for part of the year. 226
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Apart from the occurrence in summer of large migratory fish as described under the Aden Colony fisheries, there is a considerable cast-net fishery for sardines along the sand beaches east of Aden. West of Aden, sardines are rare but a small anchovy supports a fishery during the winter months.

Craft and gear are as described under Aden Colony fisheries.

Eastern Aden Protectorate

The fisheries of the Eastern Aden Protectorate are primitive but very productive. Previous observers have estimated the annual catch as over 50,000 tons of wet fish.

Sardines belonging to several species of *Sardinella* and *Dussumieria* normally abound on certain stretches of coast east of Mukalla all winter, when they support a very extensive cast-net and beach-sein fishery. Utilisation is wasteful, the fish being either sun-dried for fertiliser and animal fodder or else rotted in order to free a putrid oil. The winter of 1948-49 has unfortunately been the worst sardine season within living memory. [228]

Kingfish (*Scomberomorus*) abound in the vicinity of the sardine shoals and are taken in large quantities in nets and on handlines. They are exported either wet-salted as "maleh" or salted and sun-dried as "safif". [439]

Three species of tunny and several other large pelagic fishes are caught in considerable numbers and salted.

Sharks are taken in moderate numbers. The town of Qu'sair specialises in this fishery and sends small dhows to the Somali coast for the purpose. In general, the Somali coast is reckoned to be a better shark ground than South Arabia.

These fisheries are worked from huris, sambuks and small dhows as described under Aden Colony fisheries, using the most primitive gear. So great is the abundance at high and low tide close inshore, however, that even by these means the catch per man-hour exceeds that of many fully mechanised fisheries elsewhere.

During 1948 the fisheries of the Gulf of Aden, and particularly those of the Eastern Aden Protectorate, were surveyed under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, with a view to promoting their more efficient exploitation. The original schedule was unfortunately upset by failure to get two vessels equipped in time at Aden, but, although this hampered the work, experimental canning was carried out and liver oils tested for Vitamin "A" content early in 1948. Towards the end of the year, a taxonomist was appointed to confirm the identity of the commercial species. A full report on the survey will be published during 1949. 654
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Following on the early findings of the Survey Party representatives of the Colonial Development Corporation arrived on the Eastern Protectorate coast towards the end of the year in order to go more fully into commercial possibilities. Unfortunately their visit coincided with a particularly poor sardine season.

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ADEN PROTECTORATE

476 The Ahwar Farmers' Association was started with the nomination by the Regent of a chairman and managing committee of 12, assisted by a secretary. The committee functioned during 1952 as a kind of Agricultural Board to deal with local irrigation arrangements, cotton growing and marketing, and development work. It provided a useful link between the Department of Agriculture and the farming community.

FISHERIES

- 226 The same type of fishing is carried out in the Protectorates as in the Colony with more emphasis on beach seines. The most extensive fishery is the coast from Mukalla eastwards to beyond Qishn. In the winter months sardine of the *Sardinella* and *Dussumneria* types are found together with *Scomberomerus spp.* and tunny. The Western Protectorate coast in winter generally supports an intensive fishery for anchovy (*Stolephorus indicus*) by beach seines. In addition a small shrimp is also caught by this method. The fisheries are localised but seasonal fishermen tend to follow the shoals along the coast.

Encircling gill nets, bottom nets and lift nets are little used in the Protectorate as local opinion is strongly opposed to methods of increasing yields for fear that the fish will become extinct.

- 439 Fishing is financed in the same way as in Colony by merchants. Fish, surplus to normal requirements, is salted and dried for export to
- 226 India, Africa and Ceylon but there is considerable local consumption inland. Dried sardines are used for camel fodder, tobacco fertiliser
- 255 and human consumption. One fish factory for canning tunny and
- 254 sardines, which was established in Mukalla in 1950 and which used an Italian trawler for supplies, has had to close down owing to lack of capital. Fish meal was also produced at this factory. No cold storage or ice-making plants exist.

- 435 Marketing arrangements are the same as in the Colony: fish prices
- 226 are about 50 per cent lower for the consumer in the Protectorate.

The sardine fishery which had failed for three years showed signs of revival in the early winter of 1951 along the Eastern Protectorate coast. Shoals of larger fish were also abundant and the upward trend has again been noticed in the winter of 1952.

- 654 The Fisheries Department is described on page 27. It has surveyed
- 226 little of the Protectorate waters except by Danish seine netting. The results have been exceptionally poor owing to the rough nature of the bottom. Plans for extensive and intensive work in the Protectorates have been delayed because of schemes in the Colony. A certain amount of work has been done in Western Protectorate waters from Perim to beyond Shuqra but only one area showed signs of promise with Danish seine nets: half a ton of *Lethrinus spp.* was the best single individual haul. The fishermen from Aden Colony range into the Western Protectorate and on three nights at the end of the Shamal of 1952, with assistance from the Fisheries Department vessel, secured 14½ tons of *Scomberomerus spp.* from the west of Aden. These co-operative efforts will be resumed in the Shamal of 1953.